

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02255 250712Z
ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SZCSTATE WASHDC 7080

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL
PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD
PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. IF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAD WON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
ON FIRST BALLOT MAY 14, I MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO DIS-
CUSS WITH HIM AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, CONTANTS OF
REFTEL AND MEET JUNE 1 DEADLINE MENTIONED PARA 8 REFTL.
NOW THAT THERE IS TO BE A RUNOFF ELECTION ON MAY 28,
BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE CAMPAIGNING
AND THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM UNTIL EARLY
NEXT MONTH.

2. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE
PAST DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA THE PROBLEMS OF
FOOD PRODUCTION AND POPULATION GROWTH. INCREASED FOOD
PRODUCTION IS THE FIRST PRIORITY OF THE VOLTAN GOVERN-
MENT, AND OUR AID PROGRAM IN UPPER VOLTA IS FOCUSED
PRIMARILY TOWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE.
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WITH REGARD TO POPULATION GROWTH, THE PRESIDENT CLAIMS
TO BE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM BUT POINTS OUT THAT, IN
A COUNTRY WHERE 90 0/0 OF THE PEOPLE ARE ILLITERATE AND
WHERE ALMOST HALF OF THE CHILDREN DIE BEFORE THEY REACH
THE AGE OF FIVE, IT IS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO
IMPLEMENT A MEANINGFUL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HE SEES
THE EVENTUAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH IMPROVED

EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS, BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A MASSIVE INPUT OF FOREIGN AID SINCE THE VOLTAN BUDGET CANNOT AT PRESENT MAINTAIN THE VERY LIMITED EXISTING FACILITIES WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

3. I GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ASSESSMENT. IN A COUNTRY AS POOR AS UPPER VOLTA, IN ADDITION TO INCREASED LITERACY, ENHANCEMENT OF BASIC FAMILY SECURITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. THIS MEANS PRIMARILY INCREASING SMALL FARMER FOOD PRODUCTION, WITH POSITIVE EFFECTS BOTH ON INCOME AND NUTRITION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MUCH IMPROVED AND EXPANDED RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM INCLUDING EMPHASIS IN MCH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION SYSTEMS. AN IMPROVED AND EXPANDED RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, IN ADDITION TO ITS CONTRIBUTION TO BASIC FAMILY SECURITY, CAN SERVE AS THE VEHICLE FOR FAMILY PLANNING EDUCATION AND DELIVERY OF CONTRACEPTIVE MATERIALS.

5. IF IN THESE DIRECTIONS THAT THE CURRENT AID PROGRAM IS HEADING. WITH THE EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD PRODUCTION, THE NUTRITION EDUCATION PROJECT NOW BEING DESIGNED AND THE VILLAGE-LEVEL HEALTH EXTENSION PROGRAM FORESEEN FOR FY 81, THE NECESSARY FAMILY SECURITY BASE IS BEING LAID TO CREATE A RECEPTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR A RATIONAL POPULATION POLICY. GRAHAM

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